

**Further spread of the Feathered *Ranunculus Polymixis lichenea* (Hb.) (Lep.: Noctuidae)**

As county moth recorder for Surrey I sometimes receive dubious records from people not known to me, invariably unsupported by voucher specimens. In September 1998 I was contacted by Mr P. Williams, a recorder previously unfamiliar to me, who claimed to have taken not one but two examples of the Feathered *Ranunculus* in his trap at West Molesey. Although he was sure of his identification I was somewhat sceptical but, nevertheless, relieved to hear that he had retained the moths, and we arranged to meet the following week so that I could see them. A few days later, 27.ix.1998, I was going through my own trap, in South Croydon, when I saw a rather worn but clearly greenish noctuid which, as soon as I had laid eyes on it, rapidly vanished into the garden. It was with further relief that I recaptured the moth the following night when I was pleased to identify it as *lichenea*; an identification subsequently confirmed by dissection of the genitalia. I subsequently met Mr Williams and was able to confirm his specimens. I later heard from James Halsey that he had recorded a specimen of this moth at East Sheen on 17.ix.1998.

West (*Ent. Rec.* 110:244) recently described the spread of *lichenea* in north-west Kent, citing recent records as well as those from the London area (Plant, 1993. *Larger moths of the London area*). Collins (1997, *Larger moths of Surrey*) gives two records for Surrey: Wormley, 26.ix.1962, Messenger; and Addiscombe, 26.x.1969, Evans. This latter record also being the first for the London area quoted by West. These recent Surrey records are further evidence of its spread along the course of the Thames, a distribution shared by such species as Mullein Wave *Scopula marginepunctata* (Goeze), Yarrow Pug *Eupithecia millefoliata* Rössler and Least Carpet *Idaea rusticata* (D.&S.) – another species which is spreading and has been recorded throughout Surrey but is only common in the north of the county. As with West's records, the four 1998 Surrey examples were all male, as, of course, are the majority of moths at m.v. traps; it remains to be seen whether the moth can establish itself in Surrey, but as the larva seems to eat very many species of plant it should well be able to.— GRAHAM A. COLLINS, 15 Hurst Way, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 7AP.

***Euryporus picipes* (Paykull) (Col.: Staphylinidae) in Roxburghshire**

I shook a specimen of this uncommon beetle from very wet moss on a visit to Linton Loch, Roxburghshire with my friend Magnus Sinclair on 25.iv.98. Fowler (1888. *The Coleoptera of the British Islands* vol 2.) recorded it from the "Scottish lowlands" but there do not appear to be any recent records from this part of the British Isles. Other Scottish sites at which the beetle has been recorded recently include St Fergus, North Aberdeen (Redgate, 1981. *Ent. mon. Mag.* 117: 201), Sands of Forvie, NNR, North Aberdeen, (Crowson cited Redgate *loc.cit*), Rannoch, Mid Perth (Dobson, 1978. *Glasg. Nat.* 19: 363) and Abernethy Forest, Elgin (Owen, 1998. *Br. J. Ent. nat. Hist.* 10: 175).— J.A. OWEN, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU.